

**In the Claims:**

Please rewrite the Claims as follows:

1. (Original) A method for automatically configuring a mass storage system for measuring system performance, the system comprising a plurality of disk storage elements, each element having at least one hyper and connected to a disk storage controller, the disk storage controller being connected to at least one host computer, the host computer defining a plurality of logical units (LUN's), the storage controller defining in its configuration a front- end hierarchy and a back-end hierarchy, the method comprising  
  
balancing assignments of LUN's across the back-end hierarchy, and  
  
marginally balancing assignments of disk drive elements and hypers of the disk drive elements across the back-end hierarchy.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said balancing assignments across the back-end hierarchy maintains the assignment at any level of the back-end hierarchy within one assignment value.
3. (Original) A method for automatically configuring a mass storage system for measuring system performance, the system comprising a plurality of disk storage elements, each element having at least one hyper and connected to a disk storage controller, the disk storage controller being connected to at least one host computer, the host computer defining a plurality of logical units (LUN's), the storage controller defining in its configuration a front- end hierarchy and a back-end hierarchy, the method comprising  
  
balancing assignments of components of the back-end hierarchy to LUN's of the front-end hierarchy, and

marginally balancing said assignment.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein said balancing assignments across the back-end hierarchy maintains the assignment at any level of the back-end hierarchy within one assignment value.

5. (Original) Software stored on a computer readable medium, to perform the function of automatically configuring a mass storage system for measuring system performance, the system comprising a plurality of disk storage elements, each element having at least one hyper and connected to a disk storage controller, the disk storage controller being connected to at least one host computer, the host computer defining a plurality of logical units (LUN's), the storage controller defining in its configuration a front-end hierarchy and a back-end hierarchy, the functions comprising

balancing assignments of LUN's across the back-end hierarchy, and

marginally balancing assignments of disk drive elements and hypers of the disk drive elements across the back-end hierarchy.

6. (Original) The software of claim 5 wherein said balancing assignments function, across the back-end hierarchy, maintains the assignment at any level of the back-end hierarchy within one assignment value.

7. (Original) Software stored on a computer readable medium to perform the functions of automatically configuring a mass storage system for measuring system performance, the system comprising a plurality of disk storage elements, each element having at least one hyper and connected to a disk storage controller, the disk storage controller being connected to at least one host computer, the host computer defining a plurality of logical units (LUN's), the storage

controller defining in its configuration a front-end hierarchy and a back-end

hierarchy, the functions comprising

balancing assignments of components of the back-end hierarchy to LUN's of the front-end hierarchy, and

marginally balancing said assignment.

8. (Original) The software of claim 7 wherein said balancing assignments function, across the

back-end hierarchy, maintains the assignment at any level of the back-end hierarchy within one assignment value.